

MaineDOT Utility Task Force
Maine DOT Augusta Headquarters, Child St., Room 216
Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

1. Attendees: Sam Hafford, Rick Paraschak, Rhobe Moulton, Gary Scott, Jerry Quirion, Gene Fadrigon, Barry Truman, Aaron Bequeath, Jon Perrino, Julia Picard, Marty Pease, Steven Doody, Kevin McLaggan, Jim Sullivan, Sue Kohler, Gerry Norton, Julia Spinney, David Blanchard, Gordon Johnson, Ned Pierce, Joe Graham, Jeff McEwen, Bill Akins, Stan Hartin, Terry Blair Jr., Paul Ouellette, Brian Burne, Sam Murray, Dennis Kinney, Richard Mishio, Matt Elliot.

2. Working Clearances Around Power Distribution/Transmission

A two page handout was distributed. OSHA Standard 1926 Safety and Health Regulations for Construction, Cranes & Derricks in Construction, Standard Number 1926.1408, entitled Power Line Safety (up to 350 kV) - equipment operators.

Gene Fadrigon explained: The Bureau of Labor Standards enforces OSHA guidelines. The new requirement used to cover just cranes. It now covers anything that can be used as a crane. The first rule of thumb is to identify the line voltage. If the power voltage is unknown, then the minimum distance is 20'. Orange boots covering lines is only meant to protect someone brushing up against the covering. Covering the line is not sufficient to allow working under 10' distance. If the minimum clearance cannot be maintained, then the line needs to be de-energized and grounded at both ends.

The general discussion centered on the working distance between the equipment and the requirement to maintain 20 foot distance from the power line.

The following protocol was discussed: Get the line voltage rating in writing from the owner of the line. Anything under 50 kV (with proof) you can get within 10 feet of the line. Greater than 50 kV and up to 200 feet, the distance increases by 5 feet (1 foot distance / kV).

Stan Hartin of Maine Public Service said that another option is that the utility can relocate the line (billable work). This would be only practical with single phase. Covering the line is not an option. The Federal OSHA change in nomenclature took place around August 2010.

Jeff Tweedie asked the question, where do we go from here?

DOT Coordinators may be able to get the line voltages from owners ahead of time. It was suggested that the 104 Utility Specification have the line voltage on a project so that the contractors know what their limitations are going to be when they do the job. The 10 foot rule will become a problem, especially with DOT ditching. OSHA rules do not

define a low end less than 50 kV. The minimum is 10 feet under all circumstances unless you are de-energizing and grounding the lines. Service drops would be an issue for contractors.

Jeff Tweedie asked Gene Fadrigon if the OSHA regulation and associated issues had been brought to Bureau management level. Gene Fadrigon is working with the front office on resolving this issue.

3. Follow up on agenda items from August 2010 Meeting.

- a. The 2011 Project Advertise List: The current list is on the web site. It will be updated monthly.
- b. Drawer / Shelf Projects Protocol: MaineDOT uses a cash flow model to add projects where we can. These projects tend to be paving jobs, mill and fill or smaller highway improvements. When a project is to be shelved, the utility coordinator will produce a cover memo for the project file identifying the following:
 1. identified utilities
 2. what needs to be done by each utility and estimated time to complete the work.
 3. Establish any potential monetary pitfalls at the utility level for shelving the project.
 4. Estimated timeframe for the utility corridor to have the project ready for advertise.If a project is identified to go on the shelf, the utilities sometimes have a substantial investment in the project already. The utility coordinator will need to check back with the utility to see if conditions have changed when it is taken off the shelf. It was discussed that MaineDOT will let a utility know when a project is shelved.
- c. Contracting methods for working around buried utility appurtenances: It was asked that a buried utility company determine who to invite to a meeting to discuss the methods for working around buried utilities.
- d. Design-Build Projects: Utility Coordination Approach: The Design Build Utility Coordination Process flowchart was reviewed by all at the meeting. Maine DOT will be trying to use this process from now on. It was requested that any comments to this flowchart process be emailed to Jeff Tweedie.
- e. Aerial Utility MOU: A revised Project Utility Agreement Template was mailed out to the utilities the prior week. Jeff is looking for comments with regards to the PUA.
- f. Escrow Accounts on Large Opening Permits: A bonding-type document was drafted up by Steve Cox and MaineDOT. Brian Burnes is willing to try an irrevocable letter of credit to the utilities. Sam Murray indicated that Unitel has had issues in the past due to the “personal” information requirement on the account.

4. Highway Attributes for Permits – MaineDOT Map Viewer

Brian Burnes presented the new Map Viewer application. There has been a recent change to the viewer to HTML. If employees are using the 2002 version of Google, the older version will need to be disabled. The Maine DOT attribute application portal was viewed. The new Map Viewer has tabs to change attributes on the right hand side. Traffic data should be sent to Nate Kane.

The Map Viewer app is available online for the Utilities use for opening and location permits

5. Utility Website New Look

The new layout for MaineDOT Utility Website Presented.

6. Utility Coordination & MaineDOT Structure

Many utilities over the years have asked how the MaineDOT does business with respect to project utility coordination. The MaineDOT Utility Coordination flowchart handout was reviewed. There is more intense coordination done in Project Development. Regional projects tend to be smaller or have less of an impact. We are hoping for a more structured approach to utility coordination assignments in the next work plan coming out in July.

7. Comments/Other Business

The new work plan for 2012/2013 will be posted on the web site in July. It will list all new work over the next two years, from a program approach. There will be some overlap from the prior work plan of 2010/2011.

Jerry Quirion expressed that the utilities need to keep MaineDOT informed of changes to personnel, especially given the number of recent retirements and reduction in work force changes. When utility personnel retire, we do not know who we are supposed to be working with at the utility. This pertains mostly to Fairpoint and CMP. We should have good communication regarding current contacts and any changes. Aaron Bequeath will help Jerry to update the Fairpoint list.

Next Utility Task Force Meeting will be in September of 2011